

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1545

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 VIENNA 1140

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING, FEB 7, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ITS MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7, THE AHG, CHAIRED BY FRG REP BEHREND, COVERED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA: (1) FEBRUARY 6 INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BELGIAN, UK, US, SOVIET, CZECH, AND POLISH DELEGATIONS, (2) CANADIAN FEBRUARY 6 BILATERAL WITH SOVIET REPS, (3) PROPOSED RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH EAST, (4) DISCUSSION WITH IMS DATA EXPERT AND DRAFTING OF MESSAGE TO NAC REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF NATO FORCE DATA, AND (5) SETTING DATE FOR NEXT

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PLENARY STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH PACT REPRESENTATIVES

2. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON US WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE SCHEDULED INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPS (KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY), POLISH REP (STRULAK) AND CZECH REP (KLEIN) WHICH TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 6 WITH US REP (ROSE), BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) AND US REP AND DEP REP (VIENNA 1076). BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) AND UK REP (ROSE) REMARKED THAT THEY HAD REVIEWED THE WRITTEN ACCOUNT PREPARED BY US DEPREP AND CONSIDERED IT AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING. US REP ADDED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT THE ATMOSPHERE UNDER WHICH THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WAS GOOD, THE EAST HAD APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF DISCUSSIONS IN INFORMAL SETTINGS, WHICH REPRESENTED A CHANGE FROM THEIR PREVIOUS RELUCTANCE IN THIS REGARD. HE ALSO FELT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO ASSESS IN A DEFINITIVE WAY KHLESTOV'S COMMENT THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO LIMIT INITIAL DISCUSSIONS TO THE WESTERN PROGRAM WAS UNFAIR. THIS COMMENT WAS GIVEN AFTER A CAUCUS OF THE WARSAW PACT REPS AND MIGHT REPRESENT AN INTERIM PROTECTIVE RESPONSE WHILE THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS STUDY THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FURTHER. THE US REP SAID THE PACT REPS WERE ATTENTIVE TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, AND THAT HE BELIEVED THE AHG SHOULD PRESS ON WITH ITS PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN THE TACTICS PAPER (VIENNA 663) AND SEE HOW THINGS PROGRESS. UK REP (ROSE) SAID THE PACT DESIRE TO CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WAS UNEXPECTED BUT MOST WELCOME; HE CONSIDERED IT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. HE FELT THAT THE NEGATIVE EASTERN REACTION TOWARD THE ALLIED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL WAS A NORMAL FIRST REACTION FOR THE RECORD AND THAT THE WEST MUST CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS PROGRAM AND SEE IF IT HOLDS UP. UK REP WAS NOT CERTAIN EAST REALLY UNDERSTOOD THE WESTERN CONCEPT AND THAT THE ALLIES MUST KEEP REPEATING THIS CONCEPT SO THE EAST WILL UNDERSTAND IT. THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT IN PARTICULAR IS SUBJECT TO CONFUSION AND THE

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ALLIES MUST BE SURE THE EAST KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS. THE BELGIAN REP NOTED KHLESTOV'S OUTSPOKEN WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, BUT WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THE WEST WOULD SUCCEED IN DIRECTING THESE DISCUSSIONS IN THE DIRECTION ENVISIONED IN THE TACTICS PAPER. HE FELT IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT THE EASTERN REPS EXHIBITED CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL

AS INDICATED BY THEIR QUESTIONS ON PHASING, LINKAGE AND THE COMMON CEILING. UK REP NOTED THAT KHLESTOV, SMIRNOVSKY AND STRULAK WERE THE MAJOR PROTAGONISTS FOR THE EAST AND THAT KLEIN WAS SOMEWHAT OF AN OBSERVER.

3. FRG REP SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE REPORT: THE EASTERN QUESTIONS ON LINKAGE AND COMMON CEILING SEEMED TO INDICATE INTEREST, SO THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED BY THE APPARENT REJECTION OF THE WESTERN PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL, BUT SHOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH THE ALLIED PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AHG CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ITS REPS TO DISCUSS THE CONCEPT OF "FIXED-PERIOD-OF-TIME" WITH THE EAST AT NEXT SCHEDULED INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST. US REP REMARKED THAT THIS COULD BE IN THE FORM OF A CONDITIONAL APPROVAL DEPENDING UPON THE INTEREST SHOWN BY THE EAST. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) SAID THAT WHILE GETTING THE PACT TO AGREE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN AN INFORMAL FORUM MUST BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS, IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AHG COULD NOT RAISE THE "FIXED-PERIOD-OF-TIME" CONCEPT UNTIL AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY THE NAC. BELGIAN REP SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT AHG COULD SPEAK ON IDEA OR CONCEPT OF A "FIXED-PERIOD-OF-TIME", BUT THAT ACTUAL DEFINITION OF THIS TERM WOULD BE DECIDED IN BRUSSELS. FRG REP REPLIED THAT AHG COULD ITSELF AUTHORIZE ITS REPS TO DISCUSS "FIXED-PERIOD-OF-TIME" CONCEPT WITH THE EAST, BUT EXPLICIT DEFINITION OF THE

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

TERM WAS A PREROGATIVE OF THE COUNCIL. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM FROM READING THE ACCOUNT OF THE FEBRUARY 6 MEETING THAT THIS CONCEPT HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED. BELGIAN REP REPLIED HE HAD MADE INFERENCE ON THIS POINT IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION FROM AN EASTERN REP. ITALIAN REP INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOW SATISFIED AND AGREED THAT AHG REPS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT THE "FIXED-PERIOD-OF-TIME" CONCEPT TO EASTERN REPS AT NEXT SCHEDULED INFORMAL DISCUSSION IF SITUATION SEEMED APPROPRIATE. HE ALSO WONDERED IF KHLESTOV HAD SERIOUSLY INDICATED REJECTION OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT IN HIS REMARK ON THIS TOPIC. US REP REPLIED THAT KHLESTOV HAD ONLY BEEN MAKING A POINT OF ARGUMENT ABOUT WESTERN PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL AND HAD NOT REALLY ADDRESSED SUBSTANCE OF COMMON CEILING.

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4. UK REP REMARKED THAT WHILE THE FEBRUARY 6 DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A LIMITED SUCCESS, THE ALLIES MUST REMEMBER THAT THE WEST WAS THE HOST AT THIS GATHERING AND DIRECTED THE DISCUSSION. IN FUTURE MEETINGS THIS SITUATION MIGHT BE REVERSED WITH THE EAST GUIDING THE DISCUSSION AND ADDRESSING EASTERN PROPOSALS. THIS COULD BE A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT AHG SHOULD CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY AND PLAN HOW TO COUNTER. US DEPT REP STATED THAT IT COULD BE A MISTAKE IF GROUP TRIED TO PLAN TOO FAR AHEAD AND OVERSTRUCTURE THESE DISCUSSIONS. ALLIES SHOULD STICK TO THEIR POINT. EAST COULD OFFER ANY NUMBER OF HYPOTHETICAL ARGUMENTS. IF ALLIED REPS NOT READY TO ANSWER ON THE SPOT, THEY COULD RESPOND ON NEXT OCCASION. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) AGREED WITH US DEP REP THAT AHG SHOULD NOT DEVELOP COUNTERS TO HYPOTHETICAL EASTERN ARGUMENTS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER STATEMENTS THAT EASTERN REPS DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND CONCEPTS WESTERN REPS HAD PUT FORWARD. US REP EXPLAINED THAT THE EASTERN REPS UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS SAID; THEIR PROBLEM

WAS IN COMPREHENDING OR VISUALIZING THE CONCEPTS BEHIND THE ACTUAL WORDS. HE STRESSED THE POINT THAT THE WESTERN REPS MUST KEEP REPEATING AND EXPLAINING THESE CONCEPTS TO THE EASTERN REPS TO ENSURE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WEST IS PROPOSING. FRG REP SAID WE SHOULD GO ON EXPLAINING THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO THE EAST AND LISTEN TO THEIRS IF IT BECOMES UNAVOIDABLE, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP THINK ABOUT THIS ISSUE OVER THE WEEKEND AND ADDRESS IT AGAIN NEXT WEEK.

5. ITALIAN REP ASKED IF WESTERN REPS HAD QUERIED EASTERN REPS CONCERNING THE PRESS LEAK INVOLVING THEIR PLENARY STATEMENT OF 5 FEBRUARY. US DEPT REP SAID HE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH THE SOVIET REP, WHO HAD DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT. FRG REP THEN ASKED IF EASTERN REPS HAD ASKED WHY WEST FAILED TO MAKE A PLENARY STATEMENT ON 6 FEBRUARY. US DEP REP REPLIED THAT KHLESTOV HAD ASKED HIM WHY WEST HAD NOT MADE A STATEMENT, BUT THAT KHLESTOV DID NOT SEEM TO ATTRIBUTE ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS FACT. BELGIAN REP REPORTED THAT HE ASKED STRULAK ABOUT
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PRESS LEAKS AND THAT STRULAK REPLIED THAT HE HAD READ THE ARTICLES BUT THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO HOW THEY GOT OUT.

5. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) CIRCULATED ACCOUNT (SEPTEL) OF HIS AND CANADIAN DEP REP'S (MORGAN) MEETING WITH SOVIET REP KHLESTOV AND SOV DEL OFF (KUTOVOI) ON FEBRUARY 6. CANADIAN REP REMARKED THAT HE FELT KHLESTOV WAS INHIBITED BY PRESENCE OF HIS COMPANION AND HAD NOT TALKED AS OPENLY AS ON PAST OCCASIONS. HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD ALSO MENTIONED INCIDENT OF PRESS LEAKS TO KHLESTOV AND BELIEVED HE MUST BE AWARE OF WESTERN CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER AFTER BEING REMINDED OF IT SO OFTEN. CANADIAN REP NOTED THAT SOVIET REPS WERE INSISTENT UPON THE NEED TO HAVE A SUB-CEILING ON FRG FORCES.

7. UK REP REMARKED THAT AHG MUST CONSIDER HOW TO RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE INFORMAL CONTACTS BEING CONDUCTED WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES. HE HAD BEEN PERSONALLY APPROACHED BY REUTERS RECENTLY ON THIS SUBJECT. UK REP FEARED THAT PRESS WOULD DISCOVER WHAT WAS GOING ON AND WOULD WANT TO KNOW: WHO ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS? WHAT IS DISCUSSED? WHAT EFFECT WILL THESE MEETINGS HAVE ON THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES? AND DO THESE MEETINGS MEAN THAT THE TALKS HAVE REACHED A NEW AND POSITIVE STAGE? UK REP SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN REPLY SHOULD BE THAT SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS ARE CON-

STANTLY OCCURRING IN WHICH EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS
COME INTO CONTACT BUT THAT NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE
SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THIS; THEY SHOULD INCREASE
AS TIME GOES ON. BELGIAN REP NOTED THAT IF SUCH A
LEAK OCCURS, WEST SHOULD SAY MEETING AS JUST ONE OF
MANY SUCH INFORMAL SOCIAL MEETINGS THAT ARE CONSTANTLY
TAKING PLACE. ITALIAN REP AGREED THAT WE MUST BE
CAREFUL NOT TO OVEREMPHASIZE THESE INFORMAL CONTACTS
WITH EAST IN ANY COMMENTS TO THE PRESS. HE ALSO NOTED
THAT SINCE SUBJECT OF SUB-CEILINGS ON NATIONAL FORCES
HAD BEEN MENTIONED SO MANY TIMES IN CANADIAN BILATERAL
WITH SOVIETS, PERHAPS THE WEST SHOULD DEVELOP A
STANDARDIZED REPLY TO THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT.

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8. IMS REP (COLONEL BRANSON, CANADIAN
ARMED FORCES; CHAIRMAN OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP'S
SUB-GROUP FOR DATA SUPPORT, SGDS) STATED THAT HE WOULD

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE
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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARIZE FOR THE AHG THE SUBJECTS THAT HE HAD RAISED ON FEBRUARY 6 WITH THE AHG'S MILITARY WORKING GROUP. HE SAID THAT THE SGDS WAS TASKED WITH MAINTAINING DATA ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT AND ON AIR FORCES' PERSONNEL; THE SUBGROUP ON TACTICAL AIR MAINTAINS DATA ON OPERATIONALLY AVAILABLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT. THE SGDS FIGURES ARE OF ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL, WHICH MEANS THEY ARE OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO UNITS. THE ACTUAL STRENGTH FOR A NATO COUNTRY'S FORCE IS BASED ON THE COUNTRY'S REPORTS AND IS AS ACCURATE AS THAT COUNTRY WANTS IT TO BE; ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT STRENGTHS ARE BASED ON RESULTS OF INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCES. ASSEMBLYING NATO DATA TAKES TIME, BUT THE SGDS IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO SPEED THE PROCESS UP; FOR EXAMPLE, ALL NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THEIR CURRENT
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SUBMISSIONS IN BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND A COMPLETE ORDER OF BATTLE (AC-276 BLUE BOOK) COULD BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF MARCH; TOTALS FOR FORCES IN THE NGA COULD PROBABLY ALSO BE OUT EARLIER THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. NATO FORCE INFORMATION COMES DIRECTLY FROM NATIONAL CAPITALS AND FROM NATIONAL REPLIES TO THE DPQ. THE SGDS MONITORS THESE SUBMISSIONS BY COMPARING AND RECONCILING ACTUAL REPORTED STRENGTHS WITH DPQ REPORTED STRENGTHS. DATA IS AVAILABLE FOR 1970 AND 1972, BUT DATA FOR 1971 WAS DESTROYED. THE BEST SOURCES FOR DATA BEFORE 1970 AND FOR 1971 WILL BE THE EPQ AND MC 161 REPORTS FOR THOSE YEARS.

9. BASED ON NATIONAL REPORTS, AS OF AUGUST 1973, NATO GROUND FORCES IN THE NGA TOTALLED 803,000 PERSONNEL, WHILE THE US ESTIMATE HAD BEEN 777,000. THE DIFFERENCE RESULTS MAINLY FROM A 20,000 INCREASE IN PERSONNEL REPORTED BY THE FRG WHICH WAS POSSIBLY DUE TO CHANGE IN THEIR CONSCRIPTION POLICY. DUE TO THE FLUCTUATION IN MANY COUNTRIES' FORCES CAUSED BY THE INDUCTION AND RELEASE OF CONSCRIPTS, THE TOTAL OF NATO FORCES IS UNLIKELY EVER TO BE EXACTLY 777,000. BRANSON STATED THAT UPDATED DATA ON NATO WILL ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON THE TIMELY SUBMISSION BY NATO COUNTRIES OF DATA ON THEIR

OWN FORCES AND ON TIMELY NATO AGREEMENT TO REVISED NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT FORCES PROCESSED THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS.

10. BRANSON COMMENTED THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP COULD PROBABLY DO NO MORE THAN HE HAD DONE TO RECONCILE THE 777,000 FIGURE; ACTUAL FORCE LEVELS MAY NEVER BE THERE EXCEPT BY COINCIDENCE SOMETIMES THEY MAY BE MORE AND SOMETIMES THEY MAY BE LESS. IN GENERAL, HE HAD NOTICED A SLIGHT DECLINE OF NATO FORCES OF THE PAST FEW YEARS AND HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT WOULD HAPPEND WHEN THE NEW FRG CONSCRIPTION POLICY WAS FULLY IMPLEMENTED. HE GUESSED THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE AND WAIT UNTIL THE 1973 FIGURES ARE IN, BEFORE CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD CHANGE THE
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NUMBER. FINALLY, HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED IN THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP MEETING IF NATO FIGURES WERE NATO AGREED; HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT NATO FIGURES ARE NEVER AGREED BECAUSE YOU CANNOT TELL A COUNTRY THAT IT IS NOT CORRECT WITH ITS OWN FIGURES.

11. CHAIRMAN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE AHG, UK REP SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE FRENCH FORCES WRE INCLUDED IN THESE TOTALS BUT HE WONDERED HOW THEDATA ON FRENCH FORCES WAS ACQUIRED. THE IMS EP RESPONDED THAT THE LAST UPDATE OF THESE DATA WAS FOR THE DECEMBER MILSTAM (COMMENT: MILSTAM (MBFR) --31-73 (REVISED)). THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION TO NATO GAVE A FIGURE THAT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE US FIGURE, BUT THE COMMANDER OF FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY GAVE A FIGURE THAT WAS CLOSER TO TO THE US ESTIMATE. UK REP ASKED IF FORCES IN BERLIN WERE INCLUDED IN THIS TOTAL, AND IMS REP RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE IN THE TOTAL FIGURES FOR NATO FORCES BUT NOT IN THE ORDER OF BATTLE BECAUSE THE UK WILL NOT RELEASE BERLIN FIGURES. UK REP THEN ASKED IF THE 803,000 FIGURE INCLUDED THE SAME FORCE ELEMENTS AS THE 777,000 FIGURE. IMS REP RESPONDED THAT THEY BOTH INCLUDED THE SAME FORCES; FRENCH FORCES AND FORCES IN BERLIN WERE INCLUDED IN BOTH.

12. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS TO RECONCILE THE 777,000 FIGURE AND THE 803,000 FIGURE. HE ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SAY IN THE EVENT OF PRESS LEAKS THAT 777,000 IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A RANGE OF NORMAL FLUXUATION, PLUS OR MINUS ABOUT 5 PERCENT (SIC). UK REP SAID THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE LOGIC OF INCLUDING THE BRLIN BRIGADES IN NATO'S

DATA. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT THEY WERE IN CENTRAL EUROPE,
AND FRG REP ADDED THAT THEY INCLUDED ABOUT 10,000
PERSONNEL. ITALIAN REP THEN REPEATED HIS ARGUMENT
THAT THE POSITION SHOULD BE THAT 777,000 IS THE
MAIN FIGURE AND THAT IT CAN VARY BY 5 PERCENT. US REP
REPLIED THAT THE PROBLEM WITH DOING THIS IS THAT
NATO IS ASKING FOR A CEILING OF 700,000 MEN,
AND THAT 5 PERCENT OF THAT TOTAL IS GREATER THAN THE PHASE I
REDUCTION THAT IS BEING OFFERED. ITALINA REP RESPONDED
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THAT THE 5 PERCENT FIGURE WOULD ONLY BE USED TO EXPLAIN THE
VARIATION; 803,000 IS A TEMPORARY FIGURE. IMS REP
SAID THAT HIS CONCEP THAT THE DIVERGENCE IS TEMPORARY
IS ONLY A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION; HE REALLY DID NOT
KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS TRUE, AND BELIEVED THAT

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

ONLY BONN COULD SAY FOR SURE. US REP SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET CLARITY INTO THE FIGURES. THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO DEFINE THE STANDARD USED TO REACH INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS IN EACH CASE. FRG FIGURES FOR EXAMPLE HAD APPARENTLY FIRST BEEN BASED ON ACTUAL STRENGTH AND THEN ON AUTHORIZED STRENGTH. THESE TWO CATEGORIES SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AND INFORMATION ON BOTH COLLECTED FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT SO THAT AHG WOULD AT LEAST KNOW WHERE IT STOOD. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, TEXT OF MESSAGE TO NAC REQUESTING THAT DATA OF THIS TYPE BE ASSEMBLED, WAS APPROVED BY THE GROUP.

13. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED IF THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12 OR FEBRUARY 14. US REP SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON WHETHER THE CURRENT DRAFT PLENARY STATEMENT WAS
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ACCEPTABLE. UK REP SAID THE GROUP HAD AGREED TO THE BRACKETED PARAGRAPHS IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT, SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON'S APPROVAL. IF WASHINGTON WOULD NOT APPROVE, HE WONDERED WHAT ALTERNATIVES THE GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE BRACKETED LANGUAGE COULD BE TAKEN OUT, BUT THE UK REP RESPONDED THAT NOT MUCH WOULD BE LEFT IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT IF THIS WERE DONE.

14. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT PERHAPS THE GROUP SHOULD DEFER DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 12 MEETING, AND IF THE US RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS, THEN AN XTRA AD HOC GROUP MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 11. BELGIAN REP SAID HE HAD TOLD POLISH REP (STRULAK THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES WOULD SPEAK ON FEBRUARY 12; HE FELT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING IF NO PLENARY PRESENTATION WERE MADE. THE CHAIRMAN ADDED THAT THE GROUP HAD ASKED BELGIAN REP TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO STRULAK. US REP SAID HE HOPED HE WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER IN GOOD TIME SO A PLENARY PRESENTATION COULD BE MADE ON FEB. 12. CHAIRMAN SET THE TIME FOR THE AHG MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 11. HUMES

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